

A D V I C E
TO THE
LORD LIEUTENANTS
OF
COUNTIES,
Commanding Regiments of Militia.

DEDICATED TO
The AUTHOR of ADVICE to the OFFICERS
of the BRITISH ARMY.

Sequiturque Patrem non passibus aquis.

———Ridentem dicere verum
Quid vetat?———

L O N D O N :
Printed for J. WALKER, N^o 44, Paternoster Row.
M DCC LXXXVI.

RB 23 a 7108



C O N T E N T S.

	Page
<i>DEDICATION,</i> - - -	i
<i>CHAP. I. Lord Lieutenant,</i> - -	3
<i>CHAP. II. Captains,</i> - - - -	7
<i>CHAP. III. Subalterns,</i> - - -	9
<i>CHAP. IV. Volunteer Companies,</i>	13
<i>CHAP. V. Substitutes, Inlisting,</i> <i>and Discharges,</i> - -	15
<i>CHAP. VI. Returns and Musters,</i>	18
<i>CHAP. VII. Tour d'Adresse,</i> - -	21
<i>CHAP. VIII. Tour d'Escroquerie,</i>	23
<i>CHAP. IX. Clothing,</i> - - - -	26
<i>CHAP. X. Musick,</i> - - - -	29
<i>CHAP. XI. Agent,</i> - - - -	31
<i>CHAP. XII. Militia Chaplain,</i> -	32
<i>CHAP. XIII. Militia Serjeant Major,</i>	35
<i>CHAP. XIV. Disembodied State,</i> -	35
<i>CHAP. XV. CONCLUSION,</i> - -	37

DEDICATION.

GREAT PROGENITOR,

BEING a most implicit admirer of
your inimitable performance, in-
titled, Advice to the Officers of the
BRITISH Army, I shall not presume
to handle any subject which you have
condescended to discuss; your wit is
too sterling to bear retailing at second
hand: indeed I propose to confine my
instructions simply to the Lord Lieu-
tenant; though I shall arrange them
under different heads; he is, in fact,
the only officer in a well-modelled re-
giment of Militia; there may be other
persons bearing commissions, but they
A are

are only puppets necessary to the working of his grand machine, and exist merely by his permission.

You have very properly instructed your great commanders to observe a ~~sullen~~ and distant deportment, in order to keep up their dignity; this rule must be doubled by my pupils. An officer of the army may possibly have a wound or a broken limb to shew, which may give him some claim to respect, but as that cannot be our case, we are lost, if we relax one iota from our self-importance.

I pretend only to instruct such Lord Lieutenants as are willing to make the most of a temporary advantage; it would be throwing pearls to swine to attempt to advise such old-fashioned fellows as the Duke of ———, or Lord ———, or Mr. ———.

A D V I C E
TO THE
LORD LIEUTENANTS
OF COUNTIES,
Commanding Regiments of Militia.

C H A P T E R I.

Lord Lieutenant himself.

IT is fair to presume, that in addition to your Lord Lieutenancy you command the regiment of the county to which you belong; this is generally the case; and it would be ridiculous to suppose that you would give so good a thing to

any other person, when you are capable of holding it yourself. /

You will during the war have obtained a kind of bastard rank of colonel in the army, which neither you nor any body else thoroughly understood; but you now see the advantage of it; for in your late tour to Paris, where you have no doubt been to sport your regimentals since the peace, you have been able to give a proper answer to the the Frenchman's question, *Apparemment, Monsieur, a servi?* without the danger of a flat contradiction: besides, as this circumstance will justify your giving cockades down to the lowest helper of your stables, it is possible that ignorant persons, as you pass along in your carriage,

carriage, may imagine you have been present at the triumphant plains of Saratoga, or the brilliant transactions of York Town.

You may perhaps think that this advice comes too late, as the war is over, but I think otherwise; and if you recollect what an advantage it will be to you on a fresh rupture not to have your trade to learn, when you are called upon to reap the profits of it, you will be of my opinion.

If there be any one amongst your fraternity, who has preconceived and practised my theory, he indeed can reap no benefit from my advice.

You need not do a day's duty unless your doing of it should flatter your vanity; such vulgar employment

ment was never meant for you ; you may pass the campaign at your seat in the country, or you may attend the several horse-races, or if you are fond of travelling, you may make a foreign tour, the commander in chief will certainly not refuse leave to so great a man, especially if you affect a desire of improving yourself in military knowledge.

C H A P. II.

Captains.

RESIST, as far as possible, the entry of all qualified persons; your steward's son, or a lottery-office keeper, or two or three gentlemen from the highlands of Scotland, will make much more obedient officers. These really-qualified persons are very troublesome; they don't like this, and they don't like that; they talk of the constitution and the honor of the county; you must suffer no such language. It is indeed true, that your officers must go through the form of entering their qualifications; but this is very different
from

from having them. What is so easy as to say, I do hereby certify that I have an estate of two hundred pounds a year; will any body contradict it? Should any awkward question be put to you at a county meeting, you must then go another way to work; but you must still adhere to your resolution of never admitting holders of landed property. This you may do, by giving the commissions to the younger brothers of persons possessing six hundred pounds a year, and thus you may *captanize* a whole battalion out of two or three families, without there being a single acre of land among them all. It should seem to a common observer, that these indigent younger brothers are the

the very persons who should be excluded from being captains ; but you did not make the law ; the law is so, and your good sense will teach you to make the most of it.

C H A P. III.

Subalterns.

YOU are to study the usages of the army ; if you find any abuse there, or any custom that had better not exist, it will serve you as a precedent ; but remember to carry it to much greater lengths. For example ; it is not uncommon (perhaps not unreasonable) to give

B

to

to a young gentleman who destines his life to the service of his country, a year or two leave of absence in order to finish his studies at some German university : under cover of this custom you may give your subaltern commission to boys in the lowest classes of Eton or Winchester schools, or even to children yet existing in their mothers wombs. There is to be sure a shade of difference in the cases, but this will not be taken notice of by superficial observers.

As to the rest of the subaltern commissions dispose of them as follows : The quarter mastership, adjutancy, and even the surgeoncy, may be given to the same person with great propriety ; for he must
of

of course be very much amongst the men; he will have great opportunities of studying their constitutions, and will be at hand to cure those wounds which he himself has made.

The office of paymaster or battalion clerk is very essential to you. I advise you without hesitation to give it to a field officer, for this reason, because it is directly contrary to law—such a step will give you great importance in the eyes of your officers, who will see you are a man who can carry every thing before you. Some who know the business better than I do, think that this double appointment must be risked at all events, and that it is absolutely necessary that your

principal jackall should be a field officer, that is, if you mean to do great things.

Five or six subalterns are sufficient—let the rest never be appointed. It would be cruel in you to take poor fellows from their professions or counters to their almost certain ruin; and then you know the non-effective account will by these means be greatly augmented, to the great advantage of government, *when it comes to be returned.*

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

Volunteer Companies.

VOLUNTEER companies being defunct, peace be to their ashes. But as experience does not always make men wise, and some future genius may propose this measure in parliament, and as other men may be found, possessed of more money than wit, who may be fools enough to raise them, something must be said on this head.

Encourage the raising of volunteer companies; but when they are raised, let them dwindle to a skeleton; if they expire, no matter, you will contrive to keep them up by a wise management of the non-effective returns.

You know you cannot avoid giving the first command to the person who raises the company, or to his nomination. Him you will soon disgust, and then you will have it in your power to give a pretty temporary annuity to some dependent, who may have a vote for your county (take care he is not fully qualified). Besides, you will draw the subsistence of these companies as if they were alive and complete; there can be no harm in this, as you certainly mean to return it to government, when called on, and nobody can suspect that the interest of such a sum can be an object to you.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

Substitutes, Inlisting, and Discharges.

SET your face against serving in person — substitutes is the word; for the finding of whom you will keep a shop, and furnish as many as may be wanted at £10 a man: the parishes will sooner give this sum than go through the trouble and vexation of providing them themselves. You will pick them up with the greatest ease under the hedges as you march along at £3 per man; but take care to include the marching guinea, which you will afterwards properly arrange with your creature the receiver general. If the recruits should
be

be lame, or have been discharged from the army for infirmities, they will still do for you. It is absolutely necessary to have a certain number of this description, whom you may return to the parishes as unfit, and make them undergo a second contribution; the surplus goes to *your* stock purse, and how can it be replenished without some such aid?

It may possibly happen, that a substantial farmer's son may choose to serve in person; you will soon cure him of his *amor patriæ* by a proper application of the cat-of-nine-tails for going a few yards out of bounds, or a series of raps for not carrying his firelock properly, will have its effect in less than two months:

months: by this time Mr. Clodpole will write home to his friends to desire they will buy his discharge; this you may immediately grant; but you need not employ the money you receive in hiring another man to fill up the vacancy, the former name will look just as well on the county rolls, and why should you take another labouring fellow from the plough, where he is so necessary, when it is a hundred to one that he is never wanted for service?

Every three years there is a general ballot; a few months before that period you may discharge those whose times will expire, gradually, ten at a time; they may be returned on furlough, sick, &c. in the mean

C

time

time their pay will serve a thousand good purposes—I have known this method practised with great ingenuity and effect.

C H A P. VI.

Returns and Musters.

SLAP-DASH—complete—this was the old way—The plan must be a little altered now since the mustering act took place: this custom of mustering was formerly confined to the army, where probably it was never necessary; but on account of some few mistakes discovered

discovered in your returns, has been extended to the militia. You cannot, I fear, do quite so much good as you could before, by an immediate application of the non-effective money in the manner you could wish, but you may do a great deal. If the returns do not tally with the musters, you can make the musters accomodate themselves to the returns. This would be a dangerous practice in the army, but you run no manner of risk by it; for supposing a blot should be hit, and you should be pushed to the wall, and that every other manœuvre should fail, which is not very likely, yet you have it always in your power to get your neck out of the collar, by resigning your

commiſſion to yourſelf, or by accepting the reſignation of that of your principal jackall, and then you may laugh at the ſeverity of laws to which you are no longer ſubject.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Tour d'Adresse.

IF you should happen to command a very small corps, there are ways of at once raising your pay, your rank, and your importance without any expence to yourself. Accept, if you please, of one amongst many.

Suppose your corps to consist of one company, you must offer to raise so many volunteers as will equal the full establishment of a battalion—this you must do thus; engage a set of young gentlemen, (there are green-horns enough in the world) to raise the companies at their expence, under a promise
that

that you have interest enough after their completion to get them converted into a regular corps, and attached to the army. This indeed is impossible, but it will answer your purpose ; and it will be fine fun to see the boobies stare, when they receive their militia commissions, and have got too deep in the mire to recede, and it will certainly teach them to be more cautious for the future. I confess this advice supposes you to be a master of arts.

C H A P. VIII.

Tour d'Escroquerie.

IT may possibly happen that you may be too idle (though that is a very insufficient reason) to accept of the command of your regiment, but very probably you may be too old or too infirm, in that case you will give the command to your pimp, but rather, I think, to one of your principal tradesmen, who, though he should be so illiterate as not to be able to write his own name, will probably have a clerk who has some knowledge of arithmetic; you need only therefore appoint an agent for the sake of giving the place to a dependent; but *he* may keep all the accounts himself. He will most likely have

some officers so ignorant as not to understand such barbarous terms as Bat, and Forage, and Camp allowance, and Blanket horse, or even contingent men, or who cannot conceive how they can be intitled to the keep of five horses, when they are conscious they have not one in the world; let them remain in their ignorance—self-interest is however keen fought, and this right may be discovered; let him deny it; let him stand a suit rather than give up his point, and if a verdict should go against him, he has nothing to do but carry the cause into Chancery, where the very contingent money in his hands will serve to ruin his adversary; and it will be a high gratification
thus

thus to punish his *daring insolence* with his own weapons.

Such a transaction may possibly get into the public papers, in that case let him be sure to put at least two paragraphs in some succeeding paper, totally denying the existence of any such trial. This he may do with great safety and some truth, if the printer should have made any small mistake in the name of the cause, or in any other minute circumstance. At the worst, the public do not judge so harshly as you may think; they will only say, It is a pity such a genius was not sent early to the East Indies; and after all he may save his conscience under the old sweeping clause of *Errors excepted*, but beware of *Errors detected*.

D C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

Clothing.

I HAVE before instructed you to study the usages of the army. A regular colonel has considerable profits in the clothing. This custom is justified by saying, that it is a stipend strictly earned by long services, though given in a very exceptionable mode—what is that to you? the precedent exists, and you must embrace it; therefore cut close, and employ a knowing taylor; but you must go a great deal further.—Take care to deliver your clothing every year two months later than the former, by this method, if the regiment should continue

tinue a considerable time embodied,
 you will gain a whole year's cloth-
 ing; but if the regiment should
 be disembodied before a sufficient
 rotation, I must own this would
 be a little puzzling, but still you
 are not at your wits ends. Militia
 soldiers are, if possible, more fond
 of gin than the regulars. Instead
 of giving them their regimentals,
 (which are their right) on dismis-
 sion, offer them five or six shillings
 a suit; take my word for it they
 will accept it, in order to get at
 their darling liquor. Having thus
 obtained the clothing, lay it by in
 a very orderly manner, and you
 will be able the succeeding year to
 furnish your regiment for five or six
 shillings a suit, for which you will

charge the county thirty. - What a profit is here! what golden dreams! But if the devil should have it so, that the regiment should not be embodied at the customary time, (curse Mr. P—t, say I) yet you may still sell them to some recruiting party at no loss.

CHAP.

C H A P. X.

Musick.

IT is absolutely necessary to the dignity of yourself and your corps, that you should have a band of musick. You will contrive to raise it by a subscription amongst your captains; but when it is raised, you will consider it entirely as your own, and not let them have a tune without your express leave.

The raising and instruction of the musicians will occasion a considerable expence, and though not to yourself only, yet it is proper you should have the whole advantage of it. What a pity it is, that such a body should be disbanded at the

con-

conclusion of a war! can't we contrive to prolong its existence?— Take this receipt; when the regiments are about to be disembodied, make every musician a serjeant; if he can't handle a fusil, he can a bassoon, and that may be as well. By this stroke you have at once obtained a band of musick for yourself, to the no small astonishment of your visiting strangers, who will wonder at what an amazing expence his lordship must live. Besides, these scrapers of catgut will earn a good deal of money by fiddling at balls and wakes, and perhaps not inquire very critically after their shilling a day.

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

Agent.

COLONELS agents and pay-masters are related in the first degree; it is impossible to think of the one without associating the idea of the other. My great predecessor has given such ample instructions on this head, that I need not say much on the matter. However it may not be amiss to appoint one who has had a great deal of practice in the public accounts; it is not above ten to one but he may cut his throat on the discovery of some knavery, and then probably he and his accounts may be buried in one grave.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

Militia Chaplain.

YOU must take care to appoint a proper chaplain ; that is, you must find out some parson who has a vote for your county, who would be glad to preach to a couple of regiments, which he will ludicrously call his parishes. He must swear, and drink and talk bawdy twice as much as an army chaplain ; for I don't how it is, but tho' I have seen some signs of religion and morality in the army, I never saw the smallest traces of either in the militia.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

Militia Serjeant Major.

YOUR next great engine after the paymaster and adjutant is the serjeant major. He must of course have great authority amongst the men, and influence in keeping them quiet: you should gratify him by allowing him to sell ale; the men may as well drink at his tent as any other place, and this they may do without the risk of being punished for being out of bounds.

The serjeant major will connive at the same practice in the pay serjeants, so that on the pay day there will be little more to be done than

E

to

to give with one hand and receive with the other. This will be a great benefit to the men, as it will take away from them the means of getting into scrapes.

I have known a plan of this sort executed with great success at a country school, where, on the delivery of the weekly allowance, the daughter of the school mistress used to stand at the outside of the door with cakes and sweetmeats to sell, and in less than a quarter of an hour she would bring back the whole money into the parlour.

C H A P. XIV.

Disembodied State.

IT will admit of a dispute, whether your commission be not on the whole more valuable than that of a regular colonel. You must remember what length of service the latter must undergo, and what expences he must incur (not to mention the hard blows he must encounter) before he can arrive at his situation; but you pop into your commission without any previous qualification or risk, and if your appointment be but temporary, yet you make excellent use of your time whilst it lasts.

Neither is that seemingly coup de grace the disembodiment altogether a death's blow. You will easily conceive how you may benefit by my instructions, even during the annual monthly assembly, for you will draw from the county the subsistence of the whole regiment; and what with non-effective officers, absent with leave, &c. there will be a snug residue unemployed, which, I dare say, you will take care to return to the hands from whence you received it.

Qui capit, ille facit.

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

C O N C L U S I O N.

Amoto quæramus seria ludo.

HAVING endeavoured to draw the attention of the Public to a very dry subject in the only way in which they will attend to it, permit me for a while to throw off the mask.

The establishment of the Militia is too important to be given up entirely; yet it is allowed on all hands, that it requires some alteration with respect to the conduct of it, and the expences attending it. The public have reason to believe, that such a measure will soon take place

place under the auspices of our great minister ; I shall take the liberty therefore of throwing out a few hints on the occasion, and shall be happy if they should prove useful.

I recommend, primo, that no part of the establishment shall be ever incorporated in peace time, the adjutant, serjeants, and drums excepted ; the serjeants to be considerably reduced, and the drums to a very few indeed. The office of battalion clerk is expensive and useless ; it may very well be executed by the adjutant without his being overburdened with business ; nor should he receive any additional salary on that account. This officer should, I think, be necessarily

rily taken from the army, not that a militia officer, who has served in the embodied state is incapable of doing justice to the appointment, yet it seems more proper that this commission should serve as a reward to some deserving officer of the army, and it will prevent its being given away to answer county purposes.

2do, That there be no annual exercise whatever; that the men be chosen and enrolled, but not called out; this would save a world of expence; I know of no one advantage attending the annual exercise. What a country man can learn during that period, he will have to unlearn when called out to service: he must necessarily contract a disposition to vice, and most

pro-

probably give into the commission of it. On his return to his parish he spreads contagion amongst his neighbours to the destruction of the human species.

The chief object of the Militia is, that by a stamp of the foot a considerable constitutional force can be raised to defend the country against all invaders. From the nature of our insular situation—from the slow progress of all preparations for invasion—from the custom of entertaining ambassadors at all foreign courts—it is impossible that such an attack can be sudden; a previous suspicion of two or three months must arise. Will it not then be time enough to embody the militia? and will they

they not learn in that time more than in ten years monthly exercise? I confess, that by the mode here hinted at, the militia may be called out unnecessarily, and that the alarm which occasioned the embodiment may blow over—some expence will unavoidably arise on this account; but is it to be compared with the present lavish expenditure in subsistence and clothing under the present system.

3tio, That the officers be reduced on the conclusion of a war. It has been a general complaint, that the Militia has not been properly officered, and I will endeavour to point out a principal reason.—It is well known that at the beginning of a war, gentlemen of the first
 F property

property and situation are eager to engage in the defence of their country, and that at the close of the war they generally, from various causes, resign their commissions, whilst others (not exactly of the same description) continue to serve, and by succession obtain the first rank; these latter, however, respectable in their line of life, and perhaps within the letter of qualification, form an impediment to the future acceptance of commissions by those who move in a higher sphere of society and are more within the spirit of qualification; these, however willing to engage, cannot be induced to serve in a subordinate capacity to their inferiors.—But by the mode here proposed, there will be
a new

a new corps of officers on each new occasion, and every gentleman will find his equilibrium in conformity to his estate and situation.

4to, That the Colonel, and, I think, the Lieut. Colonel, should at all times serve without pay.— These commissions would then no longer be objects for ruined or avaricious noblemen, or needy adventurers. It is disgraceful to see a Militia Colonel eager after the petty profits of his office. It will be said, that nobody will serve under these circumstances; I answer, I think otherwise; my opinion is, that these commissions so circumstanced would be sought after by those who ought to possess them; at least I may say, the whole militia

litia establishment turns upon the supposition of the existence of such a public spirit, and if there be no such foundation, the whole is a baseless fabrick, and the sooner it is totally abolished the better.

F I N I S.



